

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19 are now in the case, claim 19 being claim 6 rewritten in independent form with the words "most" and "small" changed to "majority" and "minor". The claims have also been edited to eliminate improper multiple dependency, duplication (canceling of claim 14), and indefinite terms ("such as"). The informalities noted by the Examiner in the drawings and specification have been corrected by appropriate amendments to the specification.

Claims 1-3 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the U.S. Patent to van Ketwich No. 6,072,475. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims that were rejected based on improper multiple dependency will be treated in the following remarks, where appropriate.

The patent to van Ketwich discloses conventional apparatus that fails to teach or suggest the inventive features described in the specification and set forth in claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19. For example, van Ketwich discloses in Fig. 2 a touch screen 1111 having an external active surface area 1112 which extends in three physical dimensions in order to allow the user to receive tactile feedback by the fingertip sliding over the active surface area. The touch screen in Fig. 2 has a inverted U-shaped form as does Fig. 8a. Further, Fig. 12a shows a mobile phone where the keys are located on the front side of the mobile phone along with the display and the inverted U-shaped touch screen. Fig. 11a shows a separate input device 1810 having three different U-shaped touch screens 1811a-c, all arranged on the front side of the device.

Neither of the independent claims nor their dependent claims are anticipated by van Ketwich. With reference to present claims 1 and 19, van Ketwich does not, for example, disclose a touch surface that is arranged on an edge side of the apparatus.

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Instead, the touch surface is arranged on the front side. Furthermore, this patent does not disclose, in combination with the foregoing, apparatus comprising a display unit that includes a display area taking up a majority of the front side of the apparatus. Claim 10, dependent on claim 1, includes the additional novel feature of two curved touch surfaces arranged on opposite edge sides, again foreign to van Ketwich.

In the reading of van Ketwich, no teaching could even be found that would lead or suggest to someone skilled in the art to modify this patent to achieve the structures set forth in these claims. Having a touch screen placed adjacent to an LCD on the front side of the apparatus does not anticipate or suggest placing a touch surface on the edge side of the apparatus.

With reference to claim 12 and its dependent claims (as well as claim 11), the Examiner contends that the resilient outer foil of the touch surface in van Ketwich is clamped, resulting in its being tensioned. The referenced portions of van Ketwich have been reviewed, but no disclosure has been found that teaches or even suggests a touch surface that is formed by an outer side of a resilient outer foil having two edges located parallel to the linear geometric axis and at which the resilient outer foil is clamped so that, as a direct result of its striving to assume a flat form, it is tensioned to a convexly single-curved, resilient surface. Nor is there a teaching of this structure in combination with the curved inner foil of claims 15-17.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19 are earnestly solicited.

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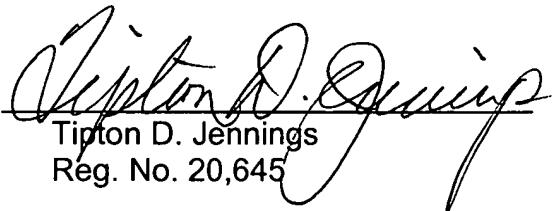
Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Abstract

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